

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for identifying a substance that down-regulates an immune response in an animal, comprising determining whether said substance inhibits an interaction between factors in the CD26 signaling pathway, wherein said substance inhibits[[:]]

(a) the interaction between CD26 and caveolin-1;

~~— (b) — the interaction between caveolin-1 and Tollip; or~~

~~— (c) — the interactions between caveolin-1, Tollip, and IRAK-1.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~interaction(s) are~~ interaction is protein:protein binding.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~interaction(s) are~~ interaction is determined by one or more assay(s) selected from the group consisting of immunoprecipitation, Western blotting, affinity chromatography, fluorescence microscopy, and two hybrid assay.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising contacting cells or extracts from cells with said substance.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said cells are T cells or monocytes.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said cells recombinantly express a factor in the CD26 signaling pathway.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said cells comprise a reporter gene the expression of which is responsive to a factor in the CD26 signaling pathway.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said substance is part of a library of substances.
11. (currently amended) A kit for identifying a substance that down-regulates an immune response in an animal, comprising at least one agent for determining whether a substance inhibits [[:]]
 - (a) the interaction between CD26 and caveolin-1;
 - (b) ~~the interaction between caveolin-1 and Tollip; or~~
 - (c) ~~the interactions between caveolin-1, Tollip, and IRAK-1.~~
- 12.-35. (canceled)